In the Claims:

1-8. (cancelled)

9. (currently amended) A sheet-sorting apparatus to sort a predetermined number of sheets having; a stacking tray to stack sheets formed with indicia thereupon; a processing tray to stack sheets temporarily in the process leading to said stacking tray; a shifting means to change a width direction of the accumulated stacked position of sheets on said processing tray; a capacity recognition means to recognize the stacked amount of sheets to stack on said processing tray; and control means that continue the operation of the shifting means to make the position of the leading discharged sheets on the processing tray and the position of the subsequent sheets the same while discharging sheets stacked on said processing tray to said stacking tray when it is recognized that the stacking limit capacity of said processing tray has been surpassed by the sheets stacked on said processing tray.

10. (original) In the sheet-sorting apparatus of claim 9 said capacity recognition means temporarily stops the stacking of subsequent sheets onto said processing tray when it is recognized that the amount stacked on the sheets on said processing tray has exceeded the stacking limit of said processing tray.

11. (original) In the sheet-sorting apparatus of claim 9 said capacity recognition means comprising a counting means for counting the number of sheets stacked on processing tray.

12. (original) In the sheet-sorting apparatus of claim 9

said capacity recognition means comprising a level sensor means to measure the height level of the sheets stacked on said processing tray.

13. (cancelled)

14. (new) The sheet-sorting apparatus according to claim 9, further comprising a path for discharging said sheets directly to said stacking tray; and a path for discharging said sheets to said stacking via said processing tray, wherein a leading plurality of sheets directly discharged to said stacking tray and a subsequent sheet set are handled as a single set discharged to said stacking tray via said processing tray, and the leading sheet set discharged from said processing tray for said leading group and at least one page of the sheets discharged directly to said stacking tray for said subsequent group are overlapped and discharged to said stacking tray.

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